August 14, 2022 ***Spiritual Foundation Precepts*-5** Pastor Billy Burchfield

**Suppositions: 1) You believe in Yahweh, 2) You believe in Jesus Christ (Mesiah)**

**John 14:21, Loving God’s Word as Jesus follower, “***He who has My* (Christ) *commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him***.”** Jesus completely aligned His life and will with the Father’s, **John 8:29,** **“***And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone,* ***for*** *I always do those things that please Him*,**”** which indicates His total allegiance to the Father’s Word and commandments. Jesus also said He disapproved of any attitude that would reduce respect for or teach less than full obedience to the entirety of God’s revealed Word, **“Matt. 5:17-19**, **“***Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one* ***jot*** *or one* ***tittle*** *will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. 19“Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven***.”** He explicitly links His disciples’ love for Him as Savior **with** their will to keep His and His Father’s commandments; Jesus’ clear intent: ***If we love Him, we will love His Father’s Word also***.  
In **John 5:39** our Lord declares that the knowledge of the Scriptures is the pathway to knowing Him well, **“***You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me***.”** Upon His resurrection, He unveiled the fullness of His own Person as revealed in the OT. **Luke 24:27, “***the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again***.”** These texts cluster to teach us: ***To follow Christ, to know Him, and to grow in insight as people walking with the resurrected Lord*.** A basic and continuing requirement is ***a steadfast commitment to hearing, heeding, and studying The Bible***.

**1 Cor 3:1-5, True spiritual growth requires God’s Word.** **“***And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. 2I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; 3for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? 4For when one says, ‘I am of Paul,’ and another, ‘I am of Apollos,’ are you not carnal?* ***5*** *Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one*?**”** Beginning in **1 Cor. 2:10**, **“***But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God…13These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual***.”** Paul elaborates our need of Holy Spirit-given wisdom and revelation, and he ties this very firmly to our receiving the “*words . . . which the Holy Spirit teaches*” (2:13). He immediately turns from these observations to an outright confrontation with the carnality of the Corinthians, attributing it to the shallowness of their intake of God’s Word (“not able to receive [solid food],” 3:2; Heb. 5:12–14).  
The demanding truth of this passage is that ***no amount of supposed spiritual insight or experience reflects genuine spiritual growth, if it is separated from our basic growth in the knowledge of God’s Word in the Bible***. Without this rootedness in the Word, we may be deluded about our growth. Such “*rootedness*” is in truth and love, not merely in learning knowledge or accomplished study. In order to experience true spiritual growth, ***we must spend time in the Word and separate ourselves from*** the hindrances of lovelessness, competitiveness, and strife.